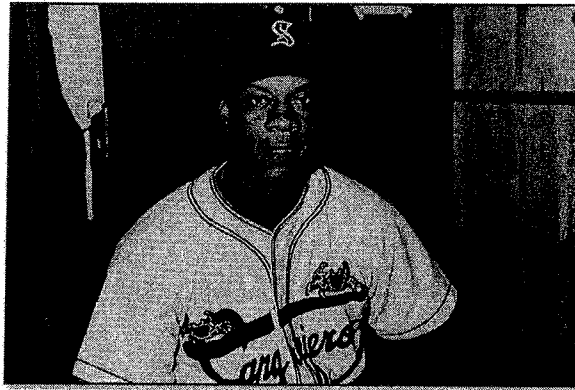


# PROCLAMATION

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## HONORING WILLARD BROWN

- WHEREAS;** Willard Brown was born on June 26, 1915 in Shreveport, LA. While growing up in Shreveport, he started playing baseball as his sport of choice, and in a way, preparing him what lay ahead; and
- WHEREAS;** Brown began his professional career in baseball as a shortstop in 1935 for the Monroe Louisiana Monarchs, a minor Negro League team, Brown signed on as a shortstop with the Kansas City Monarchs after being discovered by owner, J.L. Wilkinson. In 1937, Brown was moved to the outfield and from that time forward he was known as a power-hitting center fielder. Brown helped lead the Kansas City Monarchs to six pennants in 10 seasons from 1937 to 1946, including a Negro Leagues Championship in 1942. He was nicknamed "Home Run" by Hall of Famer Josh Gibson, for beating Gibson in head-to-head confrontations, and;
- WHEREAS;** In 1947, Brown signed on with the St. Louis Browns for a short period of time, becoming one of the five black players integrated into Major League baseball, and the first black man to hit a home run in the American League. Brown left the St. Louis Browns and later went to Puerto Rico, and;
- WHEREAS;** Brown played for the Puerto Rico Winter League in the 1940's and 1950's, capturing two Triple Crowns, earning him the nickname "Ese Hombre" ("The Man"). Brown finished his career with five seasons in the minor leagues, and completing 35 home runs in the Texas League in 1954, and;
- WHEREAS;** Brown married Mary Catherine, or Cat as everyone called her, and they were married for over 40 years. Brown was very proud of his family, and was very proud of being a grandfather of 16. When he wasn't devoting his time to his family, his favorite pastimes were hunting and fishing. He touched many lives in very positive and meaningful ways, always putting others first, and;
- WHEREAS;** Willard Brown was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame on July 30, 2006, and;
- THEREFORE,** We, the undersigned Mayor and City Council for the City of Las Vegas, do hereby take great pride in honoring Willard Brown, and declare July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006, to be

**WILLARD BROWN DAY**  
in the City of Las Vegas.